

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 1-11 and 13-15 are in the case.

I. THE INTERVIEW

At the outset, the undersigned wishes to thank the Examiner (Mr. Oh) for kindly agreeing to discussing this case and the outstanding final rejection. The interview was held on November 12, 2003, and the courtesies extended by the Examiner were most appreciated. The substance of the interview will be clear from the comments presented below.

II. THE 35 U.S.C. §112 REJECTION

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs, for the reasons of record. In response, and without conceding of the merit of the Examiner's position, claim 1 has been amended to recite the specific heteropolyacid catalysts as set forth at page 7, lines 2-5. The Examiner indicated informally that he believed such an amendment to claim 1 would obviate the outstanding formal rejection. The amendments have been made without prejudice to pursuing the subject matter canceled from the present claims in a separate continuing case.

The proposed amendment is clearly supported by the originally filed application and does not introduce new subject matter, nor raise any new issues. In light of this, it is believed that claim 1 as amended should be entered and allowed together with the remaining claims in this case. Such action is respectfully requested.

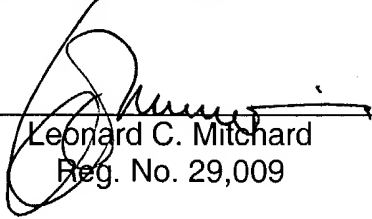
FROOM et al
Appl. No. 09/752,834
January 30, 2004

Allowance of the application is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____


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